

**For Immediate Release  
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**CONTACT: Margie Maddux  
615.532.5645 (office)  
615.478.1141 (cell)**

**Woodland Hills Under New Leadership  
Commissioner Miller Appoints Interim Superintendent**

**Nashville, Tenn.-** Department of Children's Services Commissioner Viola P. Miller today named an interim superintendent for Woodland Hills Youth Development Center, effective May 4.

Kathy Bell, a team coordinator from the Davidson County DCS office, will serve in the interim position until a formal search is made for a new superintendent. Bell replaces Kenneth Currie who had served as superintendent at Woodland Hills for the past seven years. Commissioner Miller relieved Currie of his duties Tuesday.

Earlier this week, Miller released the findings of an Internal Affairs investigation into a disturbance at the facility in March, which cited concerns with security, student to staff ratio violations, lack of clear crisis plan training, and ineffective communication among staff members; all contributing factors to the disturbance. Miller also indicated she was looking into additional issues and problems at this facility that had plagued them for many years, including leadership concerns.

"The change in leadership is the first step toward making this a safe, treatment-oriented facility for our youth and a work environment that values and appreciates our employees," stated Commissioner Miller. "I'm confident Kathy Bell can set a higher standard and provide the necessary leadership to attain this goal."

Bell has more than 25 years of experience working in juvenile justice. She has provided direct services to juvenile justice children and held supervisory positions in youth facilities in Tennessee, Kentucky and Arizona. She began her employment in Tennessee with the Department of Youth Development in 1985 and most recently was a member of the senior management team in the Nashville DCS office.

"I've always strived to assure that juvenile justice children in DCS custody are afforded the same benefits and treatment opportunities as the children in foster care," said Bell. "I'm looking forward to this challenging opportunity and working with the dedicated staff and youth at Woodland Hills."

Woodland Hills Youth Development Center serves up to 120 male students and 24 female students and is located in Davidson County. Admissions currently have been frozen at the facility until further notice from the Commissioner. The facility presently holds 88 males and 24 females. A new female facility adjacent to Woodland Hills is under construction and is scheduled to open this fall.

For more information on Youth Development Centers please visit the DCS website:  
[www.state.tn.us/youth/treatment/youth.htm](http://www.state.tn.us/youth/treatment/youth.htm).

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